

**Fiber Array Switch Having Micromachined Front Face With Roller  
Balls**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

[0560] An optical fiber switch having two coupled fiber arrays which move in a transverse direction to provide switching action. Each array has a front face and the front faces are nearly in contact. Optical fiber ends are located at the front faces. The front faces of the fiber arrays have transverse grooves in which rolling spheres are disposed. The fiber arrays move by rolling on the spheres. The spheres provide for smooth transverse motion and a fixed distance between optical fiber arrays. The spheres and front face grooves also provide for alignment between the optical fibers.